MD-248
Prince George's County

1970	Approximate date when URH began operations.
1985	Citizen complaint of oil release to Indian Creek made to County Health Department.
	Transformers found on site. EPA and HSWMA sampling detected high levels of PCBs. Asbestos also found but no dioxin.
	EPA initiated PCB cleanup and removal. Asbestos removed from site.
1986	Remediation completed.
1989	EPA performed a Site Inspection.
1999	MDE performed a Site Survey.
2000	EPA notified MDE they planned no additional Superfund action.

UNITED RIGGING AND HAULING
Beltsville, Maryland

Site Location

The United Rigging and Hauling site is located ½ mile northeast of Beltsville in Prince George's County, Maryland. The 10-acre site is on Ammendale Road about midway between U.S. Route 1 to the west and the Old Baltimore Pike to the east. A mixture of residential and industrial properties surrounds the site.

Site History

United Rigging and Hauling Company (URH) was a rigging and hauling operation that started in 1970. The company stored large equipment and occasionally acquired, stored and stockpiled of scrap electrical transformers. Property use before 1970 is unknown.

In early May 1985, the Prince George's County Health Department received an anonymous complaint regarding an oil release into nearby Indian Creek. A sample collected by the County from an oil-filled storm water drainage culvert revealed the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at 235 parts per million (ppm). The County immediately referred the site to the State of Maryland's Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Administration (HSWMA), who notified the Maryland Hazardous Waste Strike Force (HWSF). Additional samples of water, soil, and sediment were taken from the Indian Creek tributary and the drain culvert to be analyzed at the state's laboratory. These samples also showed PCB contamination.

On May 1, 1985, the HWSF obtained a search warrant against URH that included provisions for digging trenches, searching for buried waste, impounding records, and conducting extensive sampling.
The facility stored more than 700 transformers in two different locations. These locations were later designated the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) Transformer Storage Area and the EEC Transformer Storage Area. The transformers were stored in a haphazard manner and it was apparent that several of the transformers were leaking due to the high concentration of PCBs found in the soil. None of the PCB transformers were found to be PCB labeled. The facility did not maintain inspection logs, annual documents, manifest records, or any other PCB-related documents. The site was open and exposed to the environment with no measures in place to prevent or control spills or to minimize site access.

HWSF collected multiple samples from transformers and on- and off-site soils. This preliminary data showed PCB concentrations ranging from 50 to 80 percent in the transformers, contamination of on-site soil up to 55,000 ppm and off-site migration of PCBs was up to 2,000 ppm. Due to the immediate threat to public health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was notified of the situation. EPA subsequently ordered an emergency cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Environmental Investigations

On May 8, 1985, EPA and HSWMA assessed the area and found severely stained soils, oil sheens in drainage culverts leading into the adjacent stream, and more than 760 transformers on site, many leaking and some bearing PCB labels. Between May 13 and July 8, 1985, a total of 565 samples were collected to determine levels of cleanup activities. Laboratory results showed PCB concentrations up to 955,522 ppm in transformers and up to 128,000 ppm in soils. An on-site aqueous sample showed a PCB level of 2.6 parts per billion (ppb).

On May 9, 1985 it was found that the on-site burning of PCBs may have occurred, which increased the possibility of dioxins on site. EPA sampled for dioxin in a burn area on the northern end of the property and results did not show dioxin to be present.

On May 21, 1985, the (DHMH) sampled materials believed to contain asbestos. Sample results showed from 1 percent to 70 percent asbestos in several areas on site. The asbestos was subsequently removed from the site.

EPA initiated the PCB cleanup and removal in late May 1985. By the end of June, PEPCO, which owned most of the transformers, took over the remediation, which was completed in January 1986. Between July 25 and December 17, 1985, all PCB-contaminated soil and debris were removed from site and sent to Model City, New York for disposal. A total of 553 truckloads of soil and debris were removed, for a total removal of approximately 7,728 cubic yards of contaminated material. Three soil samples collected by the state after the cleanup operations were finished revealed PCBs were not detected in the ppm range.

EPA performed a site inspection of the facility on September 28, 1989. PCBs were found at low concentrations in many of the on-site soil and sediment samples. The highest concentration, 3.6 ppm, was found in the sediment at the end of the drainage pipe near the fence line. The second highest concentration, 1.1 ppm, was found at the head of the drainage pipe behind the main building.

In 1999, MDE performed a Site Survey for the URH site. In January 2000, EPA notified MDE on the basis of the *Site Survey Report* that they did not contemplate additional Superfund action for the site.

Current Status

This site is on the State Master List that identifies potential hazardous waste sites in Maryland. The Master List includes sites currently identified by EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System. EPA has given the site a designation of No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The designation of NFRAP by EPA does not mean that MDE has reached the same conclusion concerning further investigation at the site. The information contained in the fact sheet presents a summary of past investigations and site conditions currently known to MDE.

Facility Contact

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